

Bourton on the Water Village Litter Pick Sunday 8th April 2018

About 30 villagers turned out in Bourton on the Water on Sunday to join in the Keep the Cotswolds Beautiful campaign. They collected litter from a large number of public footpaths and play areas, including a number of places residents had highlighted as litter “hot-spots”.



Some of the volunteers



They collected 20 bags of rubbish, as well as an abandoned bike.....

One of the most interesting comments was that people might think twice about dropping litter if the volunteers then went and emptied the 20 bags back out onto one of the pavements (they didn't!).

Residents of all ages from the very young upwards, including a number of local Brownies, turned out on what was (unsurprisingly for this April) a wet Sunday morning. More surprisingly, the youngsters really enjoyed themselves and asked if we'd arrange another one! It's possible that the Parish Council will now organise a Litter Pick this Autumn to keep the momentum going, and the twice yearly picks could become annual events. Having so many people out on the streets at the same time did help to make people generally more aware of littering, which hopefully means there may be less litter dropped but, if it is, also more people to help pick it up.



Some of the younger litter pickers with their “swag”

As part of the campaign, pupils from Bourton Primary Academy had already litter-picked the footpath which runs alongside their school the week before they broke up for the Easter holidays. The path runs alongside the playing field which is used some weekends as overspill visitor parking, so it does see a really high footfall. They collected over 8 bags of rubbish from this footpath alone, and were astounded at some of the items picked up (a cereal bowl??).

The work done by these volunteers supplements the work of a stalwart band of residents who regularly litter pick designated areas, including the main lay-by at one of the village entrances.

Thanks to CDC for promoting the event and for our residents who gave up their Sunday morning to help keep our lovely village tidy.

Bourton on the Water Parish Council